



Shenandoah Overlook



It Takes a Nation . . .

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead


What does it take to manage 392 national park areas for future generations? It takes a nation! Our special places—parks, monuments, recreation areas, historic sites, and more—are cared for by the people of the United States through their National Park Service.

Shenandoah employs about 100 people year round and another 125 during our busiest times. You'll see employees in green and gray maintaining the roads and trails, helping visitors, protecting the resources and visitors, studying and caring for the ecosystem, and more. And right alongside the green and gray there are important partners—people who volunteer or work for other entities that have Shenandoah's future at heart.

You might see someone in the uniform of the Student Conservation Association or the Youth Conservation Corps. You'll see the khaki of our VIPs (Volunteers In Parks) and the blue and white of the Shenandoah National Park Association employees at our visitor centers. Less visible but no less important are the partnerships you may *not* see: local communities helping us plan great activities for our 75th Anniversary, or universities helping with archeology and environmental monitoring. For nearly every activity designed to protect Shenandoah, there's an important partner. (See pages 4-5 for more about our partners.)

How about you? Just visiting and enjoying your national parks makes you an important partner. But should you ever want to do more, we've got a place for you. Check out volunteer opportunities on our website.

Throughout the *Shenandoah Overlook* we'll be celebrating our many partners.

Look for  to find the important "Park Partners" who are helping protect and preserve Shenandoah.



Jeff Alt, well-known outdoors advocate and author of *A Walk for Sunshine*, volunteers for Shenandoah conducting Family Hiking Seminars. Jeff gives participants tips for safely enjoying the outdoors with the whole family.



Shenandoah National Park volunteers help with exotic invasive species eradication in the Big Meadow area.

Park Emergency Number
1-800-732-0911

Leash Your Pet in the Park!



Pets are welcome in the park—if they do not disturb other visitors or the animals who call this park home. To ensure this, **keep your pet on a six-foot lead at all times.** If you need a leash, you can find one in the bookstore section of the visitor centers.



Pets are not permitted on Ranger-led programs. In addition, to ensure your pet's safety and the safety of others, pets are not permitted on the following trails:

- Fox Hollow Trail (mile 4.6)
- Traces Trail (mile 22.2)
- Stony Man Trail (mile 41.7)
- Limberlost Trail (mile 43)
- Dark Hollow Falls Trail (mile 50.7)
- Story of the Forest Trail (mile 51)
- Bearfence Rock Scramble (mile 56.4)
- Frazier Discovery Trail (mile 79.5)
- Old Rag Ridge Trail
- Old Rag Saddle Trail

These trails total only about 14 miles! Since the park has over 500 miles of trails, you and your pet on a leash can have a wonderful time hiking in the park.

Countdown!

This fall Shenandoah National Park will kickoff its celebration of 75 stewardship-filled years! Together with the Blue Ridge Parkway, we will hold a special event this fall to mark the end of the Parkway's 75th celebration and the beginning of Shenandoah's!

Then 2011 will be filled with special events commemorating Shenandoah's past and envisioning its future. For more information see page 2 and be sure to visit the new website (June 2010): www.celebrateshenandoah.org



ALERT! – Firewood Ban!

Shenandoah National Park has implemented a firewood ban to stop the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). All firewood must be gathered or purchased inside the park. (See the map on page 8 for areas where gathering down and dead wood is allowed. For more information about this destructive insect see page 9.)

Park rangers will be educating visitors, checking firewood, and conducting EAB monitoring.

Visitors who have brought firewood should either burn all the wood immediately and completely or double-bag the wood with plastic trash bags, return it to their vehicles, and take it out of the park. Campground and entrance station personnel have supplies of trash bags approved for this purpose.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Shenandoah National Park

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*The National Park Service cares
for the special places saved by the
American people so that all may
experience our heritage.*

Park Accessibility

Restrooms and Buildings

Most are accessible or accessible with assistance.

Lodging

Accessible overnight accommodations are available at Skyland Resort, Big Meadows Lodge, and Lewis Mountain. (800) 999-4714.

Picnic Grounds and Campgrounds

Accessible sites are available at all park picnic grounds and campgrounds. Accessible shower and laundry facilities are available at Big Meadows, Lewis Mountain, and Loft Mountain campgrounds. Restrooms at picnic grounds are accessible or accessible with assistance.

Information

Information or assistance may be obtained by telephoning the Virginia Relay Center at (800) 828-1120 (TDD) or (800) 828-1140 (Voice) or by writing to the park:
Shenandoah National Park
3655 US Hwy 211 East
Luray, VA 22835
(540) 999-3500
www.nps.gov/shen

Helping Shenandoah



The **Shenandoah National Park Trust** is one of the park's non-profit partner organizations. The Trust's mission is to support Shenandoah through fostering public awareness, encouraging private philanthropy, and seeking public support.

The Trust has already helped with several of the park's projects and programs: creating a cache of rescue equipment on Old Rag Mountain giving park personnel the ability to reach injured hikers more quickly; restoring the CCC-built Old Rag Overlook along Skyline Drive (mile 46.5), thus enhancing one of the park's most spectacular views; and helping to fund the creation of the GPS Ranger, a GPS-based video and audio tour of four different hikes in the park.

If you'd like to know more about the Trust or to contribute, visit their website at www.snptrust.org, or contact: Susan Sherman, 414 E. Market Street, Suite D, Charlottesville, VA 22902

A brand-new project funded by the Trust is the eye-catching Shenandoah National Park license plate. Once 1,000 plates are sold, a portion of all additional sales and renewals comes to the Trust to support the park.



Shenandoah National Park Trust

Firearms Permitted in Shenandoah

As of February 22, 2010, a new federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, Commonwealth of Virginia, and local laws to possess firearms in Shenandoah National Park.

It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places are posted with signs at public entrances. If you have questions, please contact the park at (540) 999-3500.

The new law only affects the possession of firearms. Other weapons, such as bows, slingshots, and compressed gas or spring-powered pistols and rifles are still prohibited. Also, there is no change in the regulations prohibiting the use of firearms, hunting, or transporting legally taken wildlife through the park.

Welcome!



Martha Bogle, Superintendent

Welcome to Shenandoah National Park! While you're here, I encourage you to take advantage of the many activities offered at the park's visitor centers, campgrounds, and lodges. We want you to have an enjoyable and safe visit, so be sure to obey the speed limit, stay alert to driving distractions such as wildlife, construction activities, and inclement weather, and watch your footing as you explore the park.

We also ask for your patience as we work to improve your National Park by repaving sections of the Skyline Drive, rehabilitating many of the Drive's historic overlooks, remodeling several rooms and restoring the terrace at Big Meadows Lodge, and replacing the roofs on seven important visitor facilities.

We hope that you will enjoy your visit this year and will plan to come back again to celebrate Shenandoah's 75th Anniversary in 2011.

SNP – 75 Years, and Counting!

In 2011 Shenandoah National Park will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. This is the second in a three-part *Shenandoah Overlook* series that offers a glimpse into the years leading up to Shenandoah's dedication in 1936.

In 1935 . . .

The Appalachian Trail Council met at Skyland in June. Concerned that Skyline Drive had displaced the AT, they adopted a policy for "parkways" in an attempt to minimize development.



The "Third Annual Big Meadows Expedition" was held. Big Meadows had been designated a National Soaring site, and glider flyers touted it as "equal to or surpassing" the famous Rohn Mountains in Germany. In 1935 Big Meadows was roughly 7 times its current size of 137 acres.



The future of the park was in the hands of the courts. The legality of the condemnation was being challenged by landowner, Robert Via. Via appealed an earlier decision by state court to federal district court. They upheld the condemnation in June and the Supreme Court affirmed the district court's decision in November.

On December 26, 1935, Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, accepted the deeds transferring a total of 176,429.8 acres, making Shenandoah National Park an official reality. Officials



immediately began plans for an elaborate dedication July 3, 1936. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was invited to deliver the dedication speech.



Join the celebration!

Plan to follow the anniversary events and share your own Shenandoah memories on a special website (June 2010): www.celebrateshenandoah.org



Caring For Our Wildlife

Humans can be dangerous to wild animals! If you really care about the deer and bears and other wild animals in the park, you won't feed them.

You may see a black bear in the park, especially during the summer. Generally, bears will run away when they detect humans, and park staff work hard at keeping them wild. However, a small number of bears around campgrounds or picnic grounds may become habituated to humans—and to human food, if they have gotten it.

The deer in the park are much more numerous than bears. You may be tempted to offer them

human food. However, although they seem tame to you, they are in fact wild animals. They have their own sources of food within the park, food which is not bad for their digestive systems, as human food can be. What's more, being fed will cause deer to lose their fear of humans.

With easy access to human food, deer and black bears may become nuisances. When this happens, the bears will have to be relocated and the deer, unfortunately, may have to be destroyed.

 You!

Don't feed the wild animals in the park!

Deer Ticks – What You Need to Know

Deer ticks transmit Lyme Disease. Some cases are documented each year in the park and, of course, elsewhere in the East, including your backyards. How can you keep from getting Lyme or other tick-borne disease? The best ways:

- **Conduct frequent clothing and body checks for ticks.**
- **Tuck your pants legs in under your socks.**
- **Wear light-colored clothing (to more easily spot ticks).**



Remember—deer ticks are hard to see. They are about the size of a pinhead!


If you develop a rash or flu-like symptoms, see your doctor immediately.

>> More information at www.cdc.gov (search “tick-borne illness”) <<

On the Rocks

Rocks, like the plants and animals, are protected in the park, so you should not take a rock away; it belongs here! Moreover, rock outcrop and cliff areas, so popular with visitors, support rare plant and animal populations. Be sure to notice fragile plants in rocky areas and don't trample them.

A comprehensive study of these areas, the Rock Outcrop Management Project (ROMP), is leading to a plan that will help the park protect natural resources while still providing for visitor enjoyment of cliffs and rock outcrops.


 ROMP Volunteers, climbing community, you!



Leave No Trace!

Ensuring that future generations can enjoy Shenandoah National Park is everyone's responsibility. Follow the Leave No Trace guidelines to help take care of Shenandoah. Learn more at www.LNT.org.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

 Everyone!



Living Green Today...

“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”

Often called “The 3 R's,” this short motto sums up a few simple things we can all do to “live green” and lessen our impact on the earth today and in the years to come. You probably recycle glass and plastic at home and paper at your office or school.

But can you “live green” when are you on vacation? Yes! Whether it's beginning your day with a cup of shade-grown coffee, wearing a fleece jacket made from recycled plastic bottles, or simply walking rather than driving, there are choices you can make to live green while in Shenandoah National Park.


As for the 3R's, the park provides places for you to recycle, reduce, and reuse.

To recycle, continue to use the bins provided for glass, plastic, and aluminum in the park campgrounds, lodges, and visitor centers.

To reduce, take only one copy of this guide, park brochures, and maps.

To reuse or recycle this guide, park brochures, and maps, bring your used copies to a ranger at a visitor center or entrance station. The material will be reused by other park visitors or, if worn out, will be recycled.

Reducing the number of brochures the park prints, reusing them when possible, and recycling the rest will save paper, trees, and thousands of gallons of water needed to produce paper.

 Everyone!

What's with the Air?

Here in Shenandoah National Park you'll usually breathe fresh mountain air. However, sometimes (not often) Shenandoah experiences high ozone levels.

In the stratosphere, ozone is good: it is a colorless gas which shields the earth from the sun's ultraviolet rays. But ground-level ozone is different: it is created in warm, sunny conditions by a chemical reaction between pollutants. If concentrations are high (usually May-September), ground-level ozone threatens plants, animals, and humans. Some people may have respiratory problems when exercising strenuously.*

The National Park Service provides an Ozone Advisory System to alert you when high levels are detected. You can then adjust your outdoor activity as needed.

* Call (540) 999-3500 (May-September) to learn if ozone levels are high in the park. Or, visit the website tracking ozone information: www.deq.virginia.gov/airquality/511130003.html/

Park Partnerships



The 2011 75th Anniversary of Shenandoah National Park will not only celebrate the last 75 years, it will also inspire the next 75. Just as the establishment of Shenandoah was the result of a grassroots effort of local visionaries, the preservation of Shenandoah will depend on the same. Partnerships with communities, educational institutions, like-minded civic organizations, and many, many devoted individuals are the lifeblood of Shenandoah. In this issue we look at just a few of our many partners who give the precious commodity of their time and define stewardship.

ORMS

The **Old Rag Mountain Stewards** are volunteers who patrol Old Rag on busy weekends. They help educate hikers about taking care of themselves and of Old Rag. If there's an emergency, they are there to help.



JMU

James Madison University archeology students have helped reveal the important history and pre-history of Shenandoah. Documenting former homesites, CCC camps, Stony Man campsites, and most recently a Civil War-era furnace, helps us protect our cultural heritage.



PATC

The **Potomac Appalachian Trail Club** members put in thousands of hours each year helping park staff maintain the 101 miles of the AT in Shenandoah, as well as some side trails. When you walk the trails, remember the volunteers of PATC! For more information, visit www.patc.org.



Local Communities

As you look out over the Valley and Piedmont from Shenandoah's overlooks you'll see some of our most important partners when it comes to stewardship. The many local communities are invaluable in helping us protect the park's viewshed and other precious resources. And this year we are all working together to plan a 75th Anniversary celebration that will bring the nation to our region and set the tone for 75 more years of stewardship.



NVCC

Shenandoah's partnership with **Northern Virginia Community College** brings inner city kids to the park for a unique outdoor experience. Interns from the college work with park staff to craft an experience the kids will never forget!

SNPT / SNPA

Shenandoah National Park Trust and the **Shenandoah National Park Association** support many different projects. Both organizations collaborated with park staff on the GPS Ranger project. Visitors can rent a specially loaded GPS unit at Byrd Visitor Center to enhance their hikes to Hawksbill, Dark Hollow Falls, a mile of the AT, or a wander in Big Meadows. The unit has a small screen that shows video interpretation of special features as you hike. Visit www.snptrust.org and www.snpbooks.org.



TRT

Just about everyone has a special teacher in their past. Through a new partnership, **Teacher-Ranger-Teacher**, with local school systems, Shenandoah has several special teachers in its past and future. Each summer the park hires teachers like Danny Catron to work on projects that will help Shenandoah make lasting connections with young people. When the teachers return to school in the fall they take increased knowledge and love for the park with them!



Our VIPs Are VIP

During your visit to Shenandoah you may encounter busy folks dressed in khaki uniforms and identified by a special patch. They are **Volunteers In Parks**, and they are Very Important People! Last year **728 individuals volunteered 63,227 hours!** Want to get involved? Get all the details at www.nps.gov/shen.



Jean Rountree

Jean Rountree works for ARAMARK, the park concessioner in the gift shop at Big Meadows. During her time off she volunteers! You may see Jean cleaning up around the campgrounds and picnic areas making Shenandoah even better.

Joanne and John Amberson

Joanne and John Amberson have volunteered at Shenandoah for 17 and 15 years respectively—John in Archives with the historic photo collection, and Joanne in Interpretation editing the *Overlook* and other park publications. Joanne researched and wrote the popular short hiking guides sold in our bookstores. SNPA has sold 171,472 copies totaling \$342,944 in sales thanks to Joanne's work. Together, the Ambersons' efforts total over 27,000 volunteer hours and earned the **The President's Volunteer Award** in 2004.



Ed Knepley

A picture is worth a thousand words and VIP photographer Ed Knepley proves it! Ed loves a foggy day in Shenandoah. His unique photos grace brochures, newspapers, our website, and more, beckoning those who see them to come visit!



Wade Ridgely

Seen any good movies lately? Check out the "Photos and Multimedia" section on our website. Most of the filmwork for our podcasts has been captured by our volunteer videographer, Wade Ridgely.



Multi-taskers

Whether you have an entire summer or a few hours, Shenandoah National Park has a volunteer opportunity to fit your skills. Spend a weekend pulling invasive plants or help feed the birds of prey in winter. Be a caretaker at Rapidan Camp or join one of the many organizations that support Shenandoah. Your park needs you. Visit our website and click "Support Your Park" and "Volunteer."

SHENANDOAH, MY PARK

Our two granddaughters call me "Papa John." Some time ago, when their mother asked them what they would like to do when they came to visit us, Maddie, the younger daughter, said she'd like to go to "Papa John's park."

"Do you mean the playground at the public park we went to last time?" our daughter asked.

"Nooo, Mom," Maddie replied, "Papa John's park, the one up on the mountain."

Not Shenandoah National Park, but *my* park. In her own way, Maddie had touched upon something that in fact was quite true: through years of volunteering, Shenandoah had become my park. This is the 13th year in which I have photographed the Park for the National Park Service. In that time, the Park's internal rhythms, the progression of its wildflowers, the aroma of campfires and of the dewy meadow early on a summer morning, the temper of the air, all that, and more, has become part of me. I have come to know it more intimately, and to appreciate it and its history more deeply than ever before. And clearly, something of my love for Shenandoah I succeeded in communicating to Maddie, to my delight.

A remarkable group of people work in my park: knowledgeable, dedicated, and yes, fun. They take pride in what they do and work hard at it. The esprit de corps that exists within the Park Service is no myth. Working beside them has been most rewarding, and I consider them my extended family.

Through photography, I also have met many of the visitors who have come to my park from all corners of the globe. What a joy this has been. I've had the pleasure of meeting up again with repeat visitors, and have even formed long-lasting friendships with a few.

This extraordinary place itself, those who work here, and those who come here, each in its own way have enriched my life. It's a cliché, I know, but I do feel that I have received more through volunteering than I've given.

And so, welcome to my park. I hope you enjoy your visit here, and leave with your spirit refreshed. And may I offer one suggestion: if there is a National Park or Monument near you, a place dear to your heart, and you are in a position to do so, consider volunteering. Change it from being "a" park to being "your" park.

—John Mitchell, Volunteer Shenandoah National Park photographer

John F. Mitchell

Meet the man behind so many Shenandoah photos—John Mitchell. John has volunteered in the park for nearly 13 years, logging over 3,000 hours. Have you seen the life-size '55 Chevy in the Byrd Visitor Center exhibit? That's just one of John's *many* great photos!



SCA and YCC

You may encounter the yellow and purple patch of the Student Conservation Association (SCA). SCA, an outgrowth of Roosevelt's New Deal Civilian Conservation Corps program, provides conservation-minded interns to parks across the country. Another CCC-related program is the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Each summer local high school students work in Shenandoah learning preservation methods while doing important work in the park.



Helpful Hosts

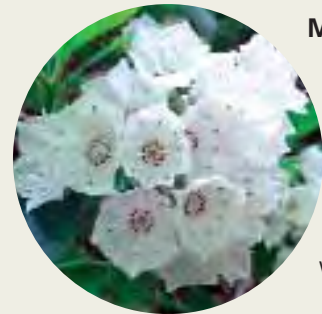
VIPs keep our campgrounds running smoothly. Volunteer hosts bring their RVs and stay for a six-week stint of helping campers enjoy their stay at Shenandoah.



come across a fawn, keep your distance and leave it alone. Otherwise, it may become frightened and leave the safe place chosen by its mother.

Fireflies brighten summer nights with their spectacular flashing lights. Around sunset, males take to the air and flash signals to females on the ground. Interested females flash welcoming responses.

Most people never see the beautiful flowers of the **Tulip Poplar** high on the branches of the tall trees. But you may find them on the ground. Look for a greenish-yellow petal with a bright orange spot at the base. Six petals form a cup that welcomes bees and other pollinators before dropping off.



Mountain Laurels are showing off their white and pink blossoms along Skyline Drive. These native shrubs are among the showiest in the park, with clusters of flowers held above the shiny green leaves.

Wild Strawberries ripen.

JUNE

Imagine all of the “American Idol” contestants trying to impress the judges by singing their best songs — at the same time! That’s what many species of birds are doing as the first rays of morning sun touch the mountains. It’s called the Dawn Chorus. As summer goes on, male birds no longer need to attract mates or defend territory, and the woods get noticeably quieter.

White-tailed Deer fawns are venturing out with their mothers. Does leave their fawns for long periods between nursing. If you

Wild Blueberries and Black Raspberries ripen.

Butterflies dance on sunny mid-summer days. Caterpillar host plants are mature, and there is plenty of flower nectar for adults. Watch for **Fritillaries**, Sulphurs, **Swallowtails**, Hairstreaks, Skippers, and many others.



Look for neon-orange salamanders called **Red Efts** on the forest floor after warm summer rains. These juvenile red-spotted newts remain on land for up to three years before returning to quiet streams, where they transform into water-dwelling adults.



JULY

Mid-summer is show time for flowers that do best in open, sunny places: non-natives such as Butter-and-Eggs, Yarrow, Queen Anne’s Lace, and Daisies, and natives such as Sunflowers, Butterfly Weed, Milkweed, and Wild Rose.

It’s mating time for **Black Bears**. Males leave after the mating period, and females raise the cubs alone.

Ghostly white flowers of Indian Pipes spring up in shady woodlands. These plants have no chlorophyll and cannot make their own food. They get nutrients by tapping into underground fungi.

AUGUST

Fall Webworms make their nests at the tips of tree branches. The social moth caterpillars feed on the enclosed leaves and enlarge the web as they grow. Trees rarely die from the spotty defoliation of these native insects.



At the slightest touch, **Jewelweed** sends its seeds hurtling away from the parent plant. It’s easy to see how this plant got its other common name, Touch-me-not.



Raptor migration begins when Broad-winged Hawks start their travels southward by the end of August. After spending the winter in Central or South America, they’ll return to Shenandoah next spring to hunt for snakes and rodents.

Yellowjackets and Wasps seem to be everywhere. Until now, each nest had been tended by sterile workers. In August, the last batch of eggs hatches into fertile males and females. Now unemployed, the workers drift about looking for something to do, such as disturbing your picnic.



The annual Perseid Meteor Shower will be at its peak after midnight on August 12. If the sky is clear, it may be possible to see “shooting stars” (tiny pieces of comet dust) burning themselves up in the atmosphere every 1 to 10 minutes! The Big Meadows area, away from the glare of city lights, is a great spot for meteor gazing.



Wild Blackberries ripen. Birds, bears, opossums, and raccoons enjoy them as much as we do. You are allowed to pick wild fruit in Shenandoah National Park, but only enough for your personal consumption.

2010 NATURALIST’S CALENDAR

While you visit Shenandoah National Park to hike, camp, enjoy the scenery, or simply relax, wild things are hard at work. Plants and animals are busy making or finding food, claiming territory, mating, rearing young or spreading seeds. Use your senses to discover this world of activity around you. Challenge yourself to experience nature without disturbing it. Be prepared to be astonished!

SEPTEMBER

Black Bears are regularly seen high up in oak trees, snapping twigs as they pull them in to eat acorns. Bears will eat for up to 20 hours a day in the fall, gaining up to one-third of their normal body weight to prepare for winter.

Monarch Butterflies are packing their bags and starting on a 2,000-mile journey. Up to 300 million Monarchs from the central and eastern U.S. and Canada head to the same forested mountains in Mexico. There they rest and await the first warm winds of spring,



when they start back northward. Some may make it back to Big Meadows next spring, but many of the butterflies arriving then will be descendants of the long-distance travelers.

Witch Hazel trees start to bloom. As the leaves fade away in autumn, the spidery yellow flower petals remain for a while, like hundreds of little starbursts hung throughout each tree.

Katydids are staying up late, singing their raspy chant, “Katy did, Katy didn’t.” The lime-green cousins of grasshoppers serenade by rubbing their wings together. The result is a loud, synchronized chorus of “Ch-ch...ch-ch-ch...ch-ch-ch” that may continue for hours.



White-tailed Deer are shedding their reddish-brown summer coats and replacing them with grayish-brown winter attire. Fawns are losing their spots.



Bucks are rubbing the velvety skin off their newly hardened antlers, getting ready to spar with each other during mating season.

Apples ripen. Formerly cultivated fruit trees mark many old home sites in the park. Today, bears and deer rely on the crop.



Shrubs in the Big Meadows area put on a fall color show before the trees begin to change. Blueberry, Huckleberry, and Maleberry leaves transform to varying shades of red. The sea of color is enhanced by the tan and brown of spent grasses and ferns and the sunny yellow of goldenrods.



Chipmunks are stuffing their cheek pouches with seeds, acorns, and nuts to keep in their underground burrows over winter. Unlike bears, they don’t store much body fat and must awaken from hibernation now and then to eat.



Black Bears are going into their winter dens. If the weather is mild, some bears may stay out longer, searching for food. Bears start emerging from hibernation in April, having spent at least five months relying solely on their body fat to survive.

OCTOBER

Fall Color is usually at its best in mid to late October. Oaks dominate the forest with leaves turning yellow, rust, and various shades of red. The stars of the show are the Black Gums (bright red), Sugar Maples (orange), and Red Maples (red or yellow). Hickory leaves turn golden yellow, while Striped Maples, Birches, Cherries, and Tulip Poplars turn lemon yellow. Dogwood leaves turn deep purple.

Flowers still blooming include Chicory, Goldenrod, Aster, Violet, Viper’s Bugloss, and Yarrow.



Banded Woolly Bear Caterpillars are racing across trails at about four feet per minute, searching for protected spots to spend the winter. The fuzzy brown-and-black caterpillars will change into yellowish adult Isabella Moths next spring.

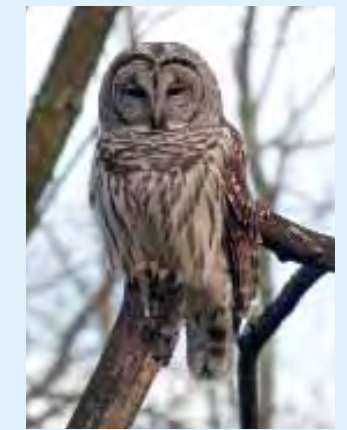
NOVEMBER

It’s peak mating season for **White-tailed Deer**. **Bucks** put their antlers together and shove each other around to show who’s boss and impress the ladies. All the fuss will be over by the end of December. Later in winter the antlers will drop off, and new ones will start to grow in spring.



Raptor migration continues. Heading southward through the Blue Ridge this month are Merlins, Kestrels, Peregrine Falcons, and Cooper’s, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, and Sharp-shinned hawks. Bald and Golden eagles may also pass through. Some hawks remain in the park all year.

Many birds have headed south by now, but winter residents remain. Among them are Chickadees, Juncos, Titmice, Blue Jays, Nuthatches, **Woodpeckers**, **Owls**, Grouse, **Turkeys**, Crows, and Ravens. Some Bluebirds remain over winter.



Northern Harriers, unusual hawks with owl-like faces, migrate southward into Virginia from Canada and northern states. Brown females and gray males are sometimes seen hunting for mice and voles in the Big Meadows area.

Arctic residents may stop at the park on their way to warmer climes. Keep an eye out for Snow Buntings, sparrow-sized, mostly white birds with black wings. Sometimes they’re seen for just a day or two, pecking at gravel along the edge of the road before continuing on to spend the winter along the east coast.

ARAMARK Presents... Family Activities and Events!

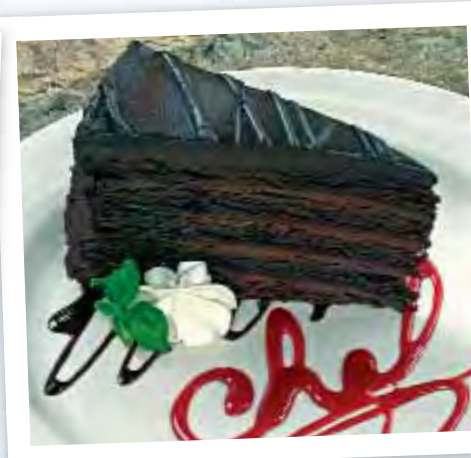
Continuing a tradition set by George Freeman Pollock, proprietor of a resort at Skyland long before the park was established, ARAMARK, the official concessioner, offers a variety of activities and events for visitors. A few are highlighted here. For details, pick up a Calendar of Events brochure at restaurants, lodges, and visitor centers.



Tea With the First Ladies
Journey through the history of two of America's most spirited women, Lou Hoover and Eleanor Roosevelt. Historian Babs Funkhouser, director of the Museum of American Presidents, presents an informative narrative while desserts from the First Ladies' favorite recipes and a variety of teas are served.



Summerfest
Summer in Shenandoah is the perfect time for a day of singers, dancers, old-fashioned games, and historic "Cake Walks." Local artisans will be on hand to showcase their talents and unique products. Summerfest means fun, food, and entertainment for the whole family. Admission is free.



Culinary Events
The Shenandoah Seasonings Culinary Events are an experience for your senses! Shenandoah's Executive Chef and area vintners will lead guests through a delectable four-course menu of mouth-watering items paired with wines. The "Rainy Day Cooking" demos are a delectable way to spend time sampling some of the chef's favorite recipes.



Live Taproom Music
Family friendly entertainment is featured nightly in the taprooms at Skyland Resort and Big Meadows Lodge. Local musicians perform traditional selections including Appalachian-style old time string music, country, bluegrass, easy listening, and more.



Pick up a copy of ARAMARK's **Calendar of Events** for a complete list of activities, dates, and times or visit www.visitshenandoah.com

Saving the Park's Ash Trees – Why the Firewood Ban?



Over 30 million! That's how many ash trees have been killed in Virginia and seven other states by the Emerald Ash Borer, or EAB.

EAB was first discovered near Detroit, Michigan, in 2002. It probably arrived in the U.S. on infested woodpacking material from Asia. Within the last three years, EAB has spread to several more states, and is now only 55 miles from Shenandoah National Park's northern boundary in Fairfax County, Virginia.

The **larvae** of the EAB feed on ash trees with devastating results. The larvae **bore tunnels** beneath the ash bark, causing damage to the sapwood and disrupting the tree's ability to

transport nutrients. In most cases, this disruption results in the tree's death within three to four years, so the EAB is a real threat to Shenandoah National Park. Although the white ash tree is not dominant in the park, it is an ecologically important species here.

Under natural conditions, EAB spreads about one mile per year—but the movement of infested wood has allowed it to spread hundreds of miles per year. Because currently there are no known native predators to control the EAB and no effective chemical treat-

ments, land managers throughout the East are working to control the spread of this devastating insect through quarantines, bans, and public education.

For more information on EAB, quarantine areas, and firewood restrictions, visit our website: www.nps.gov/shen.

You Can Help!

Visitors to Shenandoah can help slow the spread of EAB by not transporting firewood into the park. Firewood should be purchased or gathered in


approved areas. **The map on the opposite page is marked to show places where collecting down and dead wood is allowed.** The park concessioner has firewood for sale at campstores, lodges, and campgrounds. All concessioner wood sources are regularly inspected and monitored.

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P Shenandoah is working with local communities and other agencies to study and stop the spread of EAB. And we are depending on you to comply with the firewood ban.

SNPA Celebrates 60 Years!

Sixty years ago on May 13, 1950, the Shenandoah National Park Association (then called the Natural History Association) was formed to increase public understanding, appreciation, and stewardship by supporting the interpretive and educational activities of Shenandoah National Park. The Association supports its mission through donations and the sales of educational items in its Park Stores and through the Internet. SNPA has grown from its first year's gross of \$410 to 2009 gross sales of \$620,000.

Since its founding, SNPA has donated over \$2.1 million dollars to support the park. 

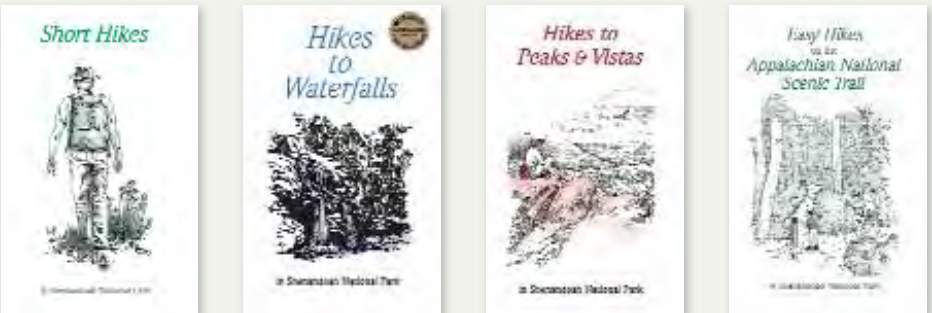


SNPA also co-sponsors many special events, activities, and seminars each year. Annually the association funds the publication of the park's visitor guide *Shenandoah Overlook* which won first place in the Association of Partners for Public Lands Media Competition in 2010.

SNPA members enjoy discounts in the park and the community and are a strong component of SNPA's continued success. To join SNPA, inquire at one of the park's visitor centers or visit online. Your purchases at the visitor centers help the park and SNPA as they look forward to supporting Shenandoah's interpretation and education services for many years to come.



Shenandoah National Park Association
3655 U.S. Highway 211 East
Luray, Virginia 22835
Email: snpa@shentel.net
Online Park Store: www.snpbooks.org



Another important function of SNPA is the development of publications about the park. The short hiking guides, a value at \$2.00 each, are among its most popular offerings.



The Cultural History series tells the stories of Shenandoah's past through historic photos, postcards, and documents.



Don't miss the 75th Anniversary Shenandoah National Park Calendar for 2011. What a great way to celebrate Shenandoah all year long!



Scavenger Hike Adventures - This newest award-winning publication is a fun way to experience park trails.

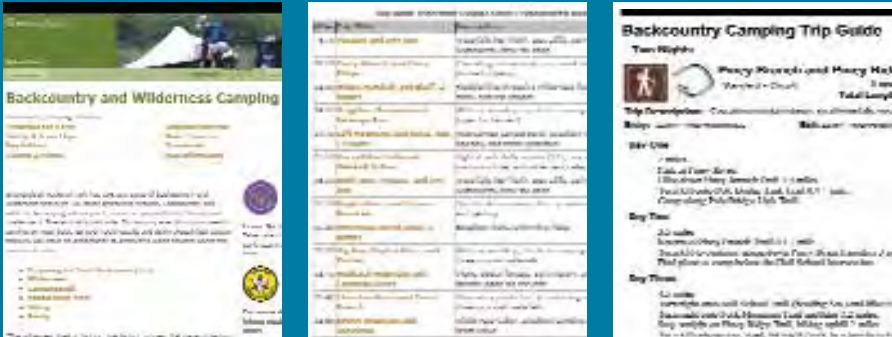
Visiting Shenandoah's Backcountry

Whether you want to see a waterfall or a high mountain peak or just hike into the forest, Shenandoah welcomes you into the backcountry. And should you love it so much that you want to make

your visit an overnight there's a new interactive backcountry camping trip planning tool on our website! Using this tool you can tailor-make a great backcountry camping trip.

Shenandoah's Online Backcountry Trip Planner

www.nps.gov/shen/planyourvisit/campbc.htm



Using the interactive trip planning tool, you choose your level (Beginner, Intermediate, or Advanced), trip length, and ability for a list of suggested routes. Then, based on the description, which also includes mileage, type, and entry point, you choose a route. When you click on the chosen route you get printable directions with all the information you need to enjoy an overnight stay in Shenandoah's backcountry.

Nearly 100 trip plans include information on where to park, suggested trail routes, and where to look for places to camp for a wide variety of areas, abilities, and duration. While these plans are written for backcountry campers, day hikers may certainly use the routes as well.

The site also relates important safety information and regulations, as well as an introduction to the Leave No Trace principles.

Permits are required for overnight camping and are available free from park headquarters, visitor centers, most entrance stations, the north and south entry points for the Appalachian Trail, and Old Rag Fee Station.

If you plan to camp in the backcountry be sure to obtain a copy of *Exploring Shenandoah's Backcountry*. This guide

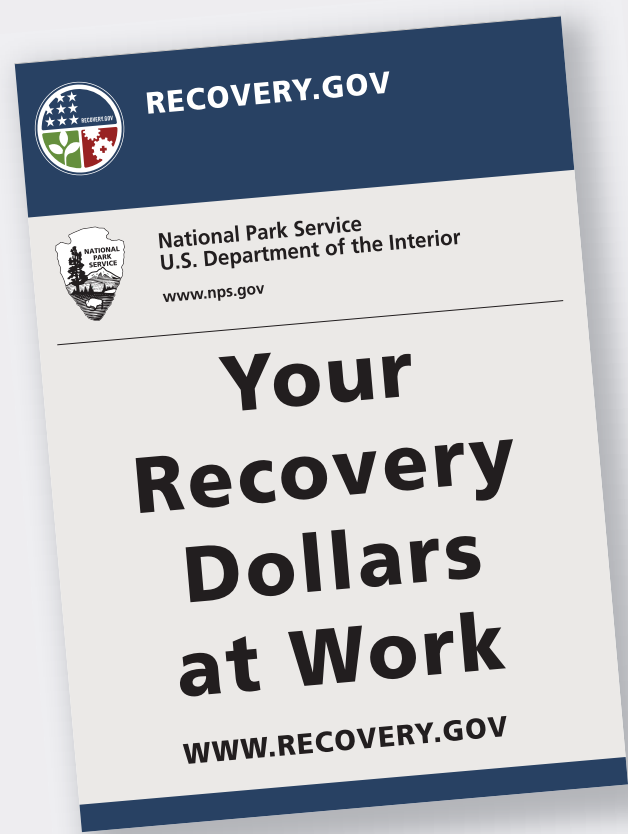
provides details about the regulations for backcountry camping and instructions for obtaining and filling out a permit.

Another of our partners, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), maintains huts for long-distance hikers and backcountry cabins. Six locked, primitive cabins are equipped with mattresses, blankets, and cookware, and some will accommodate as many as 11 persons. They are available by reservation only. To get additional cabin information visit the club website at www.patc.org.



Shenandoah Looks to the Future

Have You Noticed These Signs?



Some of the treasured resources in Shenandoah National Park are being enhanced through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law this unprecedented act to jumpstart a failing United States economy. The goal is to put Americans to work while investing in infrastructure for the future. Shenandoah National Park received nearly \$30 million to fund much-needed projects.

As you drive through the park, you will see Americans working to preserve and protect our nation's treasures. The vast majority of Shenandoah's money will be used to improve sections of the Skyline Drive, a National Historic Landmark, as well as to rehabilitate up to 32 historic overlooks. Visitors should expect delays along the Drive and some overlook and road closures. Other work won't be quite as visible as we paint administrative buildings, remove hazard trees, and replace culverts, among other projects.

For additional information, visit www.recovery.gov.





Preparing for the Next Generation

From 1933 through 1942 thousands of young men in the Civilian Conservation Corps worked to ready Shenandoah for the generations of visitors who would travel along its Skyline Drive, hike its extensive trail system, and gaze across the horizon from its overlooks. Now, nearly 75 years later we are seeing the wear and tear. The many rehab projects you may encounter this summer will prepare Shenandoah for the next generation of visitors. As you travel Skyline Drive you may see crumbling rock walls and deteriorating pavement. You will also encounter closed overlooks and parking areas while work is in progress. Be sure to stop at Stony Man Overlook to see an example of the final product. And then plan to return again and again, because Shenandoah is preparing for another 75 years and beyond.









Ranger Programs: May 29 to September 6

Fall schedule will be available in the *Fall Overlook* (September) and at www.nps.gov/shen

North District (Dickey Ridge, Elkwallow, Mathews Arm)		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Terrace Talk - Spend 10 minutes learning about a special feature of Shenandoah National Park. <i>Dickey Ridge Visitor Center (mile 4.5).</i>		Check at the Information Desk for talk schedule.						
Wild About Bears - Learn about Shenandoah’s largest mammal during this 20-minute talk. <i>Elkwallow Wayside (milepost 24).</i>								1:00 p.m.
Ranger Insight - Shenandoah’s treasures are revealed at this 20-minute talk. <i>Mathews Arm Campground Amphitheater (mile 22.2).</i>								4:30 p.m.
Evening Walk - Explore the forest as day turns into night. 1.5 miles. 1.5 hours. <i>Meet at Mathews Arm Campground Amphitheater Parking Area (mile 22.2).</i>								7:00 p.m.

Skyland (miles 41.7 and 42.5)		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Life on the Rocks - Hike a scenic section of the Appalachian Trail for a look at the precarious nature of life on the rocks. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. 1.5 miles. 2 hours. <i>Meet at Stony Man Mountain Overlook (mile 38.6).</i>		10:00 a.m.		10:00 a.m.		10:00 a.m.		
Stony Man Hike - Hike to the park’s second-tallest peak to hear Stony Man’s stories. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. 1.6 miles. 2 hours. <i>Meet at Stony Man Trailhead (mile 41.7, the north entrance to Skyland Resort).</i>			10:00 a.m.					10:00 a.m.
Junior Ranger Program - Investigate the mysteries of Shenandoah through fun and educational activities. Ages 7-12. Adult must accompany child. 1.5 hours. <i>Meet at Skyland Conference Hall (lower road).</i>					3:00 p.m.		10:00 a.m.	
Wild About Bears - Learn about Shenandoah’s largest mammal during this 20-minute talk. <i>Skyland Dining Hall Terrace.</i>		1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.
Ranger Insight - Shenandoah’s treasures are revealed at this 20-minute talk. <i>Skyland Dining Hall Terrace.</i>			1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.	
Discovery Walk - Discover the plants, animals, and people that make Shenandoah a special place. 1 hour. <i>Meet at Skyland Amphitheater.</i>			4:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.			4:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
Historic Massanutten Lodge - Tour the restored 1911 cottage of Addie Pollock to learn the stories of early Skyland Resort. 1 hour. <i>Meet at Skyland Conference Hall (lower road).</i>		4:00 p.m.		4:00 p.m.		4:00 p.m.		4:00 p.m.
Evening Hike - Explore the mountain as day turns into night. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. 1.6 miles. 2 hours. <i>Meet at Stony Man Trailhead (mile 41.7, the north entrance to Skyland Resort).</i>		7:00 p.m.		7:00 p.m.				
Campfire Program - Join a Ranger for this National Park Service tradition. Dress for cool mountain nights. 45 minutes. <i>Skyland Amphitheater.</i>							8:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.

Big Meadows (milepost 51)		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Terrace Talk - Spend 10 minutes learning about a special feature of Shenandoah National Park. <i>Byrd Visitor Center.</i>		Check at the Information Desk for talk schedule.						
Historic Rapidan Camp - Travel by bus 30 minutes to President Hoover’s summer retreat. Visit the refurbished President’s cabin. 3 hours. 12-person limit. <i>Reserve by phone (540-999-3500, ext. 3283) or in person at Byrd Visitor Center. Meet at Byrd Visitor Center.</i>		9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
CCC Walk - Celebrate the Civilian Conservation Corps legacy on this walk to a CCC-era structure. 1.2 miles. 1.5 hours. <i>Meet at Upper Hawksbill Parking Area (mile 46.7).</i>					9:30 a.m.		9:30 a.m.	
Bearfence Rock Scramble - Climb up rugged boulders on this tough but rewarding hike to a 360-degree view. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. 1.2 miles. 2 hours. <i>Meet at Bearfence Parking Area (mile 56.4).</i>				10:00 a.m.		10:00 a.m.		
Meadow Walk - Discover the wonders of a rare high-elevation wetland meadow on a gentle walk. 1 mile. 1.5 hours. <i>Meet at Byrd Visitor Center.</i>		10:00 a.m.			2:30 p.m.		10:00 a.m.	
Birds of Prey - Meet live raptors and learn about their vital role in the ecosystem. 1 hour. <i>Big Meadows Amphitheater, in picnic area.</i>			10:00 a.m.		10:00 a.m.			10:00 a.m.
Kids’ Corner - Get to know Shenandoah through a short activity. Ages 6 and under. Adult must accompany child. 30 minutes. <i>Meet at Byrd Visitor Center.</i>		11:00 a.m.		11:00 a.m.				
Pocosin Mission Hike - Hike to the site of a mountain mission church for a glimpse into the past. 1.9 miles. 2 hours. <i>Meet at unmarked Pocosin Parking Area (mile 59.5), east side of Drive.</i>				2:00 p.m.				
Appalachian Trail Hike - Experience this legendary mountain trail on a gentle hike. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. 2 miles. 2 hours. <i>Meet at Milam Gap Parking Area (mile 52.8).</i>			2:00 p.m.			2:00 p.m.		2:00 p.m.
Hawksbill Mountain Hike - Explore a high-elevation forest on the way to the summit of Shenandoah’s tallest mountain. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. 2.1 miles. 2 hours. <i>Meet at Upper Hawksbill Parking Area (mile 46.7).</i>		2:00 p.m.			2:00 p.m.		2:00 p.m.	
Wild About Bears - Learn about Shenandoah’s largest mammal during this 20-minute talk. <i>Byrd Visitor Center</i>		2:00 p.m.		2:00 p.m.				2:00 p.m.
Junior Ranger Program - Investigate the mysteries of Shenandoah through fun and educational activities. Ages 7-12. Adult must accompany child. 1.5 hours. <i>Meet at Byrd Visitor Center.</i>				3:00 p.m.		3:00 p.m.		3:00 p.m.
Discovery Walk - Discover the plants, animals, and people that make Shenandoah a special place. 1 hour. <i>Meet at Byrd Visitor Center.</i>			4:00 p.m.				4:00 p.m.	
A Mountain View - Amble along the Appalachian Trail to the Blackrock Viewpoint. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. 1 mile. 1 hour. <i>Meet at Big Meadows Amphitheater, in picnic area.</i>					4:00 p.m.			4:00 p.m.
Evening Stroll - Explore the meadow as day turns into night. 1 hour. <i>Meet at Byrd Visitor Center.</i>			7:30 p.m.		7:30 p.m.			
Campfire Program - Join a Ranger for this National Park Service tradition. Dress for cool mountain nights. 45 minutes. <i>Big Meadows Amphitheater, in picnic area.</i>				8:30 p.m.		8:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.

Loft Mountain (mile 79.5)		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Wild About Bears - Learn about Shenandoah’s largest mammal during this 20-minute talk. <i>Loft Mountain Information Center (mile 79.5).</i>								2:00 p.m.
Discovery Walk - Discover the plants, animals, and people that make Shenandoah a special place. 1.5 hours. <i>Meet at Loft Mountain Information Center (mile 79.5).</i>								3:30 p.m.
Campfire Program - Join a Ranger for this National Park Service tradition. Dress for cool mountain nights. 45 minutes. <i>Loft Mountain Campground Amphitheater.</i>								8:30 p.m.